

CTChiro

Connecticut Chiropractic Association

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Statement of the Connecticut Chiropractic Association
House Bill 5444
Human Services Committee
January 29, 2015

Senator Slossberg, Representative Abercrombie and members of the committee:

My name is Dr. Chris Connaughty. I have been a practicing Chiropractic Physician for 27 years in Old Saybrook. I presently serve on the legislative committee of the Connecticut Chiropractic Association and represent that organization today in support of ***S.B. No. 284 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAID COVERAGE OF CHIROPRACTIC SERVICES.**

We believe low-income recipients in Medicaid should have access to chiropractic services.

Our profession provides full body care, nutritional and wellness guidance, and has been the leading force in these areas, providing our patients with the tools to lead a healthier lifestyle. This approach to the treatment of the entire person is unique in health care and leads to decreased reliance on medications, increased physical and emotional health and well being, and therefore a preventative approach for many of the chronic health problems that plague this country. Doctors of Chiropractic are trained and licensed to serve as portal of entry physicians.

We're good enough for Medicare and the Veteran's Administration. We're included in the Worker's Compensation system and we are a mandate within the insurance industry in the State of CT. We provide services in HUSKY. We are the third largest healthcare specialty in the nation. Surveys show that patients rate their satisfaction with their chiropractic experience at a very high level. Patients desire and need our services. Let's let low-income citizens have this option as they did up until 2004.

Plain and simple, chiropractic is a much less expensive option than traditional medical care. A continued denial by the legislators of the state of CT will result in a shift toward increased payment for traditional medical care with its inherent higher costs for treatment, diagnostics and the risks associated with prescription drugs and invasive procedures. Additionally, many times the patient will have to wait for several weeks or months to be seen by an orthopedist or neurologist, which forces the Medicaid patients to go to the emergency room. This will not result in dollars saved or improved health outcomes for these Medicaid patients. Meanwhile, there are chiropractors that can see these patients right now.

As you know, in coming years, Medicaid enrollments are expected to grow substantially due to federal healthcare reform. Unless chiropractic is restored fully to Medicaid, a large percentage of the population will not have access to effective conservative care and what is considered to be a first line of defense towards real and meaningful positive outcomes.